Look for the *mitigation system* — it's a sign of a *healthier house!*

Mitigation systems reduce radon by collecting radon and other soil gases prior to entry into the house and discharging them to a safe location above the highest eave.

Illinois mitigation systems must include:

- Effective radon reduction
- Unobtrusive and permanent installation
- Quiet operation
- Energy efficient operation and maintenance
- A system function indicator
- A primary suction point independent of the sump pit
- Sump covers with observation ports
- Exhaust above the highest eave and as close to the roof ridge line as possible

For More Information
contact

St. Clair County Health Department
Barb Hohlt
#19 Public Square - Suite 150
Belleville, Illinois 62220
Office: 618-233-7769
Fax: 618-236-0676

or the

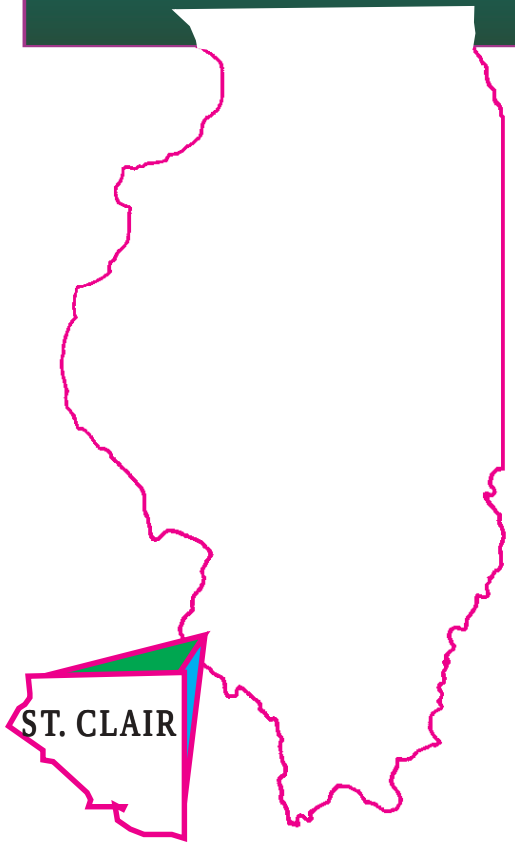
Illinois Department of Nuclear Safety
Radon Information Line
1 (800) 325-1245
TDD: (217) 782-6133
www.state.il.us/idns

Printed by the Authority of the State of Illinois
(4133-1/03)

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF NUCLEAR SAFETY

RADON

IN THE ST. CLAIR COUNTY AREA



Rod R. Blagojevich
Governor

Thomas W. Ortciger
Director

Is there radon in the St. Clair County Area?

YES!

Studies by the Illinois Department of Nuclear Safety (IDNS), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and others show that radon occurs in every county in Illinois.

IDNS found in its study that 17 percent of the homes that were tested in St. Clair County had indoor radon levels of 4 picocuries per liter of air (pCi/L) or greater.

Studies show that high radon levels occur often in Southern Illinois, but no matter where you live, there is still reason for concern.

The USEPA has set 4 pCi/L as the Action Level, the level at which residents should take steps to reduce radon levels.

IDNS screening results for St. Clair County are shown in the table below.

St. Clair County

	Number	Min Result	Avg Result	Max Result	#>4 pCi/L	%>4 pCi/L	#>20 pCi/L	%>20 pCi/L
Basement/ Subsurface Level	39	0.4	2.7	12.3	6	15	0	0
1st Floor Living Area	4	0.7	1.1	1.4	0	0	0	0
1st Floor Bedroom	5	0.8	3.5	6.4	2	40	0	0
Total	48	0.4	2.7	12.3	8	17	0	0

The St. Clair County Health Department also conducted radon testing. St. Clair County found in its study that 45.5% of the homes that were tested in St. Clair County had radon levels of 4 picocuries of air(pCi/L) or greater. Results of this screening are shown in the table below.

St. Clair County

Number of homes tested	Min Result	Avg Result	Max Result	#>4 pCi/L	%>4 pCi/L	#>20 pCi/L	%>20 pCi/L
22	0.8	5.1	18.0	10	45.5	0	0

Can I test for radon myself?

YES!

Radon testing is easy and inexpensive. Radon detectors are available at hardware stores or by calling IDNS for a list of licensed laboratories that sell detectors.

Does radon really cause lung cancer?

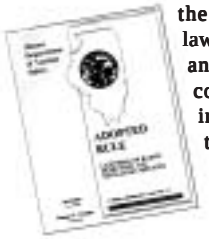
YES!

Radon is a Class A human carcinogen, which means there is actual evidence that exposure to radon causes lung cancer in humans. The National Academy of Science's Sixth Committee on the Biological Effects of Ionizing Radiation (BEIR VI) study reaffirmed USEPA's risk estimate for radon exposure. In addition to USEPA, radon's risk is recognized by the:

American Medical Association
US Center for Disease Control
American Lung Association
World Health Organization and many others

Do people in Illinois take radon seriously?

YES!



In 1997, the Illinois General Assembly passed the Radon Industry Licensing Act. This new law prohibits interfering with or causing another person to interfere with the successful completion of a radon measurement or the installation or operation of a radon mitigation system. This section applies to everyone, not just individuals required to be licensed. Expensive penalties may be assessed against those who violate this Act.

Radon is a colorless, odorless, radioactive gas. Testing is the only way to determine the radon level and risk in your own home. Follow these easy steps to radon testing.

The First Step	Initial Test Results and Follow-up Tests	Test Results: Do You Take Action?
Conduct an initial short term radon test.	If your initial short-term test result is: • below 4 picoCuries per liter (pCi/L).	• No action is necessary. You may want to re-test at some time in the future.
	• between 4 and 9.9 pCi/L. Follow up with a long-term test.	• If your long-term test result is less than 4 pCi/L, no follow up test is needed. • If your long-term test result is 4 piC/L or greater, the IDNS recommends fixing your home
	• 10 pCi/L or greater, follow up with another short-term test.	• If the second result is in agreement with the first, the IDNS recommends fixing your home.

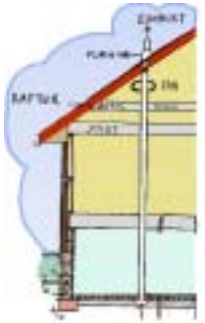
My house doesn't have a basement, could I still have high radon levels?

YES!

Any home can have elevated radon levels. It doesn't matter whether your house is old or new or whether it has a basement, crawlspace, or slab-on-grade foundation. Most radon enters a home because of air pressure and temperature differentials between the indoor and outdoors. When air is exhausted by natural or powered ventilation, make-up air is drawn in through openings in the foundation from the surrounding soil.

If my house has a high radon level, is there anything I can do about it?

YES!



Indoor radon levels can be lowered by installing a radon mitigation system that collects radon prior to its entry into the house and discharges it to a safe location.

Contact a mitigation professional licensed by IDNS to reduce the radon levels in your home. Radon mitigation system installations usually cost between $800 to $2,500, depending on the characteristics of the house and choice of radon reduction methods.

Residents may install a mitigation system in their own home; however, without proper equipment or technical knowledge, you could increase the radon level or create other potential hazards.

Radon detectors come in a variety of shapes. Charcoal detectors, on the left, are short-term tests. Alpha track detectors, on the right, are long-term tests.